

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC Chapter 91 - Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons: Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve this Notice to amend Chapter 91 “Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons.” Chapter 91 gives the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting.

Season dates are adjusted annually to comply with federal regulations and to ensure the seasons open on weekends. Additionally, the second segment of the duck season in the north zone will open a week earlier than it did in 2008.

The boundary dividing the state into north and south zones for goose hunting is being revised so that it is the same as the boundary that divides the state into north and south duck hunting zones.

The boundaries for the Canada goose closed area in Worth and Winnebago counties are redefined. Landowners with permits to hunt in the Canada goose closed hunting zones will be allowed to hunt until October 31 instead of October 15.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 12, 2009

Attachment: Chapter 91 - Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons: Notice of Intended Action

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 91 “Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These rules give the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and include season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. Season dates are adjusted annually to comply with federal regulations and to ensure the seasons open on weekends. Additionally, the second segment of the duck season in the north zone will open a week earlier than it did in 2008. The boundary dividing the state into north and south zones for goose hunting is being revised so that it is the same as the boundary that divides the state into north and south duck hunting zones. The boundaries for the Canada goose closed area in Worth

and Winnebago county are redefined. Landowners with permits to hunt in the Canada goose closed hunting zones will be allowed to hunt until October 31 instead of October 15.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before April 29, 2009. Written comments may be directed to the Wildlife Bureau's website at www.iowadnr.com or may be sent to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax (515)281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Wildlife Bureau at (515)281-5034 or at the Wildlife Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be public hearings held at 18 locations via the Iowa Communications Network on April 29, 2009. Interested persons should contact the Department at (515)281-5034 for a list of hearing locations or go to the Department's website at www.iowadnr.com. At the hearings, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Persons attending the hearing will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearings and have special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 91.1(2) and 91.1(3) as follows:

91.1(2) Season dates - north zone. For all ducks: September ~~20~~ 19 through September ~~24~~ 23 and October ~~18~~ 10 through December ~~14~~ 3.

91.1(3) Season dates - south zone. For all ducks: September ~~20~~ 19 through September ~~24~~ 23 and October ~~18~~ 17 through December ~~14~~ 10.

ITEM 2. Amend subrules 91.3 (1), 91.3(2), and 91.3(3) as follows:

91.3(1) Zone boundaries. ~~The north goose hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of U.S. Highway 20. The north goose hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the Nebraska-Iowa border at State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, southeast to State Highway 183, northeast to State Highway 141, east to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Iowa-Illinois border.~~ The south goose hunting zone is the remainder of the state.

91.3(2) Season dates - north zone. Canada geese and brant: September ~~27~~ 26 through October ~~5~~ 4 and October ~~18~~ 10 through December ~~24~~ 20 and December ~~27~~ 26 through January ~~11, 2009~~ 3, 2010. White-fronted geese: September ~~27~~ 26 through December ~~7~~ 6. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): September ~~27~~ 26 through January ~~11, 2009~~ 10, 2010.

91.3(3) Season dates - south zone. Canada geese and brant: September ~~27~~ 26 through October ~~5~~ 4 and October ~~18~~ 17 through December ~~24~~ 20 and December ~~27~~ 26 through January ~~11, 2009~~ 10, 2010. White-fronted geese: September ~~27~~ 26 through December ~~7~~ 6. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): September ~~27~~ 26 through January ~~11, 2009~~ 10, 2010.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 91.3(7) as follows:

91.3(7) Light goose conservation order season. Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from January 12, 2009 11, 2010, through April 15, 2009 2010.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 91.4(2) paragraph "d" as follows:

~~d. Area four. Portions of Winnebago and Worth Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at a point two and one half miles east of Lake Mills, Iowa, at the junction of State Highway 105 and County Road S10 (also named Bluebill Ave.); thence south along County Road S10 (including the right-of-way), i.e., Bluebill Ave., three fourths mile to 448th St.; thence east three fourths mile on 448th St. to Cardinal Ave.; thence south one fourth mile to 445th St.; thence east one fourth mile to Cedar Ave.; thence south one half mile on Cedar Ave. to 440th St.; thence east three fourths mile on 440th St. to Dove Ave.; thence south on Dove Ave. one half mile to 435th St.; thence east one fourth mile on 435th St. to Dove Ave.; thence south on Dove Ave. to County Road A34; thence east one mile on County Road A34 (including the right-of-way) to Evergreen Ave.; thence south two miles to County Road A38 (also named 410th St.); thence west eight and one half miles along County Road A38 including the right-of-way; thence north four miles along County Road R72 (also named 210th Ave.) (including the right-of-way); thence east along State Highway 69 approximately one mile (including the right-of-way) to the intersection with State Highway 105; thence east along State Highway 105 (including the right-of-way) five miles to the point of beginning.~~ Portions of Winnebago and Worth Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 69 and County Road 105 in the town of Lake Mills, thence east along County Road 105 (including the right-of-way and all other road right-of-ways identified in this description) approximately 5 miles to Dogwood Ave.; thence south along Dogwood Ave. to 440th St.; thence east one-fourth mile on 440th St. to Dove Ave.; thence south on Dove Ave. one-half mile to 435th St.; thence east one-fourth mile on 435th St. to Dove Ave.; thence south on Dove Ave. to County Road A34; thence east one mile on County Road A34 (also named 430th St.) to Evergreen Ave.; thence south one mile to 420th St.; thence west along 420th Street to Cedar Ave., thence south one half mile along Cedar Ave. to Lake St., thence west one fourth mile along Lake St. to Front St., then southeast one half mile along Front St. to County Road A38 (also know as 410th St.); thence west along County Road A38 to County Road R74 (also named 225th Ave.); thence north along County Road R74 to 420th St., thence west along 420th St. to County Road R72 (also named 210th Ave.); thence north along County Road R72 to U.S. Highway 69; thence east along U.S. Highway 69 to point of beginning.

ITEM 5. Amend subrule 91.5(1), introductory paragraph as follows:

~~91.5(1) Clay County, Dickinson County, Emmet County, Jackson County, and Butler County closed areas. Area 1 (Emmet Co.), Area 2 (Clay and Palo Alto Co.), Area 3 (Dickinson Co.), Area 4 (Winnebago and Worth Co.), Area 11 (Jackson Co.), and Area 15 (Butler Co.) as described in subrule 91.4(2).~~

ITEM 6. Amend subparagraph 91.5(1)"b"(7) as follows:

(7) Hunting within the closed area will be allowed through October 15 31.

ITEM 7. Amend rule 571--91.6(481A) as follows:

571—91.6(481A) Youth waterfowl hunt. A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held on October 4 and 5, 2008 3 and 4, 2009, in the north duck hunting zone and October 4 and 5, 2008 3

and 4, 2009, in the south duck hunting zone. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any other game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in rule 91.1(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

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